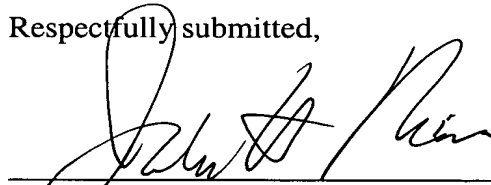


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**REMARKS**

The above amendments have been made to eliminate the improper multiple dependencies of claims 8 and 11, thereby ensuring examination of all of claims 1-16 on the merits in the first Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John H. Mion", is written over a horizontal line.

John H. Mion  
Registration No. 18,879

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213  
(202) 663-7901

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 28, 2003